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Committee to Investigate Assassinations
927 15th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005

July 14, 1969

To: Directors, Members & friends of the Committee

From: Bud Fensterwald, Executive Director

Subject: Progress Report after first 6 months of existence.

Organization

a) Present Board of Directors

Mr. Fred Cook, Interlaken, N.J.	Mr. John Henry Faulk, Austin, Tex.
Mr. Bernard Fensterwald, Jr., Wash., D.C.	Mr. Paris Flammonde, New York, N.Y.
Mr. Jim Garrison, New Orleans, La.	Prof. Richard Popkin, La Jolla, Cal.
Mr. Richard Sprague, Hartsdale, N.Y.	Mr. Lloyd Tupling, Washington, D.C.
Mr. William Turner, Mill Valley, Cal.	

b) Present Membership

Dr. A. George Abbott, San Diego, Cal.	Mr. Edd A. Jeffords, Tacoma, Wash.
Mr. Perry Adams, Santa Barbara, Cal.	Mr. Penn Jones, Midlothian, Texas
Mr. Dick Bernabei, Kingston, Canada	Mrs. Shirley Lester, Tulsa, Okla.
Mrs. A.W. Brussell, Carmel, Cal.	Mr. Gary Murr, Ontario, Canada
Mr. Steve Burton, N. Hollywood, Cal.	Dr. John Nichols, Kansas City, Kan.
Mr. Lenny Colodny, Adelphi, Md.	Mr. Preston Nichols, San Diego, Cal.
Mrs. Lillian Costellano, L.A., Cal.	Mr. Don Olson, E. Lansing, Mich.
Mr. Arthur Egan, Manchester, N.H.	Mr. William Oltmans, The Netherlands
Mrs. Mary Ferrell, Dallas, Texas	Mrs. Shirley Orr, Cuba, Missouri
Mrs. Maggie Field, Beverly Hills, Cal.	Mrs. Barbara Reid, New Orleans, La.
Dr. Robert Forman, Oshkosh, Wisc.	Mr. Harold Porter, Tacoma, Wash.
Mr. Jones Harris, New York, N.Y.	Mr. Gary Schoener, Minneapolis, Minn.
Mr. Paul L. Hock, Berkeley, Cal.	Mr. Hal Verb, El Cerito, Cal.
Mr. Steve Jaffe, Pac. Palisades, Cal.	Dr. Cyril Wecht, Pittsburgh, Pa.

c) There are a number of additional persons around the country who are cooperating with the Committee 100% but, for one reason or another, cannot have their name publicly linked with the Committee. We are most gratified for their cooperation.

d) Feelers have been made re the possibility of organizing Regional Branches of the Committee. So far, this suggestion has not received an overwhelming amount of support.

Finances

Generally non-existent?!

As with most such ventures, we are in need of one or more angels who have not materialized. Therefore, we are dependent on contributions by members and friends.

Anything you can spare will be greatly appreciated.

Tax Exemption

Totally non-existent!!

IRS is fighting us each step of the way. However, in time we will get an exemption.

Progress

I am more than satisfied with the progress of the investigations of the several assassinations. Our biggest problems at the moment are coordinating the information in hand, plus finances to employ one or more professional investigators to follow out the more dangerous and/or delicate leads.

My own personal evaluation of the current status of the investigations is as follows:

JFK -- We have greatly narrowed down the leads that look really productive, but these leads are very difficult to pursue.

MLK -- We have definitively established that there was a conspiracy but have no clear idea of who was behind it yet.

RFK -- Relatively little progress, except by several members in Los Angeles who have been working very hard and effectively. This investigation is still in the beginning stages.

Snatches from a Junket

Your Executive Director and his wife took an 8000 mile auto junket around the country from May 12th to June 20th, visiting with members, friends and fellow assassination students and doing a small bit of detective work on the side.

It would be impossible to try to recount all of the people with whom we met; and it would be imprudent at this time to put in writing all that we learned. However, here are a few items that might be of interest and/or help.

We stopped in Nashville to see if there was any possibility of talking to Ray. There was not. He is under the tightest possible security. We also were unable to get either a copy of the mug shot or finger prints of him as taken in Nashville. We did, however, have a long and fruitful meeting with Jim Squires, a reporter for the Nashville Tennessean, who has spent the last 15 months full time on the King case; he is extremely knowledgeable and most cooperative; if you have an unanswered factual question re Ray (no pun intended), you might write him.

We stopped in Chattanooga to meet Robert W. Hill, Jr., Ray's new lawyer for the appeal of his criminal case. Hill is an extremely interesting and able lawyer. Also, he is President of the U.S. Bondo Assoc. We worked out what we hope will be a most useful Mutual Assistance Pact. His address is 418 Pioneer Bldg., Chattanooga, Tenn.

In Atlanta, we visited many scenes of Ray's activities and talked to a number of persons. The most interesting conversation was with Jimmy Garner. He no longer has rooming house registers for 1967 and 1968 (probably went to FBI); we wished to see them as they might give a clue to identity of Raul, as it was Raul, not Ray, who was familiar with Garner's rooming house; he probably stayed there previously. Garner also said that Ray received a package in the mail after April 5th, and that the FBI picked it up; some one knew he had been staying at Garners. Incidentally, Garner had a terrible accident in October, 1968; he was crossing a highway, hit by a car, and broke both legs; apparently, pure accident, according to him.

We stopped for several days in Birmingham, primarily to see Arthur Hanes, Sr. & Jr. They were not only extremely cordial but equally helpful. We had many hours of productive talk. Several emphatic points worth noting...per Ray, as told to Hanes:

- 1) Ray was in Portugal until June 8th.
- 2) When Ray bought the gun, he was told that it was to be shown to persons who were interested in smuggling guns to Latin America.
- 3) From March 22-April 4, 1968, Ray was under direct orders of Raul.
- 4) He had his eyes refracted and bought eye glasses in Birmingham in September, 1967. This explains the "mystery" of eye glasses - No glasses.
- 5) Charles Stein is a flying saucer buff. (Incidentally, no information can be obtained at present from Stein or his family).

In New Orleans we visited with a number of colleagues and friends, including Jim Garrison. There was much talk of the "satellite" cases arising from the Shaw trial. Barbara Reid furnished some new and fascinating leads which we are "running out".

Out week in Dallas was exceptionally productive. However, because of the difficulty under which our colleagues operate there, this is no place to record material which could be traced back to any individual. We did learn much there to strengthen the known ties

- 1) Between Ruby and Oswald;
- 2) Between Duff and Oswald;
- 3) Between Ruby, and the Mafia, and Larry Myers;
- 4) Between Oswald and the FBI and CIA.

In addition to others, we spent an afternoon with Marguerite Oswald and an evening with Ruth Paine. Both fascinating but not productive of much "hard" evidence.

Phil Willis let us examine the originals of his slides. Two things of interest: 1) Picture #5 seems to have had the train painted out, apparently by the Secret Service; 2) Picture #8 - At very edge of picture (not shown in Volumes) is a man who looks very much like Jack Ruby.

In San Diego we spent a most productive day with Dick Popkin discussing both Kennedy cases.

We saw so many helpful people in the Los Angeles area and discussed so many aspects of all three cases that no attempt will be made to detail the conversations here. Suffice it to say that we picked up much very useful information relating to all three major cases. We were delighted with the spirit of cooperation shown and more than delighted with the cordiality with which we were welcomed.

In a brief few hours in San Francisco, we were able to lunch with Bill Turner, but unfortunately, time did not permit visits with our other friends and associates there. Next trip!!

And then 3000 miles back to Washington, D.C. and a desk full of unanswered mail. We will get caught up soon.

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